

My constituents are paying more today than they were a year ago for basic goods like milk, gas, and bread.

In fact, the national average price for a gallon of gas recently reached \$3.36, more than \$1 higher than it was a year ago and the highest price since October of 2014.

It was also recently announced that core inflation is at a 30-year high.

Inflation has gone up every month since President Biden has been in office.

Inflation is an invisible tax on all Americans, and it especially hurts seniors living on a fixed income.

Out-of-control government spending fuels inflation.

Some of my colleagues seem to believe more spending is the answer.

They have proposed a \$4.3 trillion spending plan coupled with a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure package, both of which are filled with pork, unfortunately.

For example, the spending bill contains billions for job training in climate careers to create a Civilian Climate Corps to promote the Green New Deal; to develop environmental justice initiatives; for housing grants to felons convicted of domestic violence or hate crimes; to benefit, again, 10 million illegal immigrants; and \$200 million for a park in San Francisco.

While I do believe we need to invest in traditional infrastructures such as roads, bridges, internet connectivity, and cybersecurity, only a very small percentage of the proposed infrastructure package funds these types of essential projects, which is wrong. We must spend more on traditional infrastructure and get rid of the perks.

These spending packages would raise taxes on every American, not just the rich.

They will kill American jobs and make us less competitive in the global marketplace.

In the end, it is more frivolous Washington spending, which is the absolute wrong approach, in my opinion, to fixing our economic woes.

It will only make matters worse, Madam Speaker.

Small business owners, who are the backbone of our economy, are having a very difficult time recovering from the pandemic, as you know. Not only are they dealing with the same inflationary pressures that all Americans are experiencing, but they are also facing labor and material shortages.

As we head into the holiday season, consumer demand will only continue to rise.

The supply chain bottlenecks must be resolved immediately to prevent further damage to our economy.

Instead of working together to find common ground and areas about which we can build consensus—that is how we govern—my colleagues on the left, though, seem determined to go it alone. That is the wrong approach, Madam Speaker.

They have spent weeks publicly arguing amongst themselves about how

many trillions of American taxpayer dollars they should spend without any concern to what this out-of-control spending will do to our already struggling economy.

Simply put, this is not how we grow the economy. This is how we grow inflation.

In order to restore our way of life and renew the American Dream, we must implement Trump-era economic policies that yielded unprecedented economic growth, the lowest unemployment levels for minorities in the history of the United States, energy independence—that is what we need—and the highest rise in middle-class wages in decades.

The destructive economic policies of those on the left must be defeated.

□ 1045

HONORING COACH DOUG SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the leadership and perseverance of Appomattox County High School coach, Doug Smith.

Doug Smith has led the Appomattox Raiders football team since 2012. Under his leadership, the team has boasted a 32-game winning streak, and won State championship titles in 2015, 2016, and 2017. While Coach Smith's record is amazing, his leadership extends well beyond the field.

Coach Smith has truly united the community behind their team, as evidenced by the large groups on Friday nights. One cannot visit Appomattox County without seeing the impact Coach Smith has made on his students, his coworkers, and the community at large.

Modeling by example, he has taught his student athletes to be productive citizens, such as when the team famously came out in full force to help those affected by the devastating tornado that hit Appomattox in 2016.

However, Coach Smith is best known for his relationship with Jesus Christ, his eternal perspective, and his focus on those things that matter more than football. This has been most clearly displayed since the fall of 2020, as Coach Smith has faced a great personal challenge of his own with a diagnosis of multiple myeloma, a cancer of the plasma cells.

He has been a tremendous testimony through this journey. Thankfully, it appears that the Lord has him on the road to recovery. My continued prayers are with Coach Smith as he continues to fight this terrible disease.

I thank Coach Smith for his commitment to service and leadership. Coach Smith is an inspiration to us all about the importance of serving others, even through personal challenges.

COMMEMORATING SAILORS AND MARINES
ABOARD USS "FORRESTAL" ON JULY 29, 1967

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember and express grat-

itude to the brave sailors and marines who were wounded or lost their lives fighting the catastrophic fire aboard the ship, the USS *Forrestal*.

July 29, 2021, marked the 54th anniversary of one of the most tragic fires in U.S. naval history. On July 29, 1967, the USS *Forrestal*, which was supporting combat operations off the coast of Vietnam, was impacted by an accidental rocket that ignited a fire and triggered several bomb explosions on the flight deck.

Sailors and marines on board, including several Virginians, bravely fought the fire for 18 hours. Despite the courageous efforts of the crew, 134 men died, 161 were wounded, and 21 aircraft were destroyed. Sadly, veterans wounded that day are still fighting their claims with the VA, such as my constituent, Mr. David Cephas Smith, of Vinton, Virginia. These heroes were not awarded the Purple Heart because their wounds did not occur during enemy combat, but their bravery still merits recognition.

We are forever grateful for the service of veterans, like Mr. Smith, who were wounded or sacrificed their lives battling this fire aboard the USS *Forrestal*.

PROTECTING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, in my home State of Pennsylvania, a woman was brutally raped by an illegal immigrant.

In Congress, one of our primary duties is to protect the American people. By allowing illegal immigrants who have committed crimes to remain within our borders signifies that we are failing. Allowing an illegal immigrant who has committed acts of sexual violence to remain in our country shows that we are failing.

Congress must move immediately to pass legislation ensuring that any immigrant who commits acts of violence is deported. What happened in Philadelphia this week was a failure of American leadership. It showed clearly that the Biden crime crisis is escalating.

Now, as apprehensions at our southern border hit record highs, President Biden is taking away the vital resources that our Border Patrol agents need to do their job. The answer to stopping our border crisis and our crime crisis is not to defund the police. The answer is not to be more lenient on illegal immigrants who have committed violent crimes against Americans.

We must put the safety of the American citizens first, and we must put the security of the American citizens first.

CELEBRATING CLARKE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL INDIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recent success of a high school football team in Iowa's Second District. For the first time in 31 years, the Clarke Community High School Indians are headed to the playoffs. The team finished the regular season with a 5-and-3 record, which is also a first in 31 years.

Although their season had plenty of ups and downs, the team persevered and worked hard to make their community proud. They will be traveling up to Williamsburg, Iowa, tomorrow, October 22, to take on the Raiders in the first round of the playoffs. I am confident that Clarke will make the Second District proud.

Congratulations to Coach Quinlan and his staff, and all the players, and the entire Clarke County community on their success, and good luck tomorrow night.

SAVE OUR SERVICEMEMBERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that has become a national crisis and that must be immediately addressed. Serving in the Army for 24 years as both a nurse and a physician, from the Vietnam era to the first Gulf War, I have seen many of my fellow veterans suffer from anxiety, depression, survivor's guilt, and PTSD. Many veterans are still living with those scars, and without proper care and treatment, mental health crises can make everyday life a struggle or even life-threatening for them or their families.

Yesterday, I partnered with my fellow veterans, Congressman RUBEN GALLEG0, a corporal in the Marine Corps, Senator JONI ERNST, a fellow veteran and a fellow Army lieutenant colonel, and Senator MARK KELLY, a captain in the Navy, to introduce the Save Our Servicemembers Act.

This bipartisan and bicameral legislation would direct the Pentagon to evaluate the effectiveness of their suicide prevention efforts and to improve its data collection, reduce bureaucratic duplication, and strengthen collaboration between its offices.

I am heartbroken at the continued rise in suicides in the veteran community and our military communities. It is no secret that our servicemembers often face invisible challenges when they return to civilian life, and we need to do a better job addressing their needs and the needs of their families.

We need to look into all of our mental health and suicide prevention programs to better service our heroes, and I am proud to partner with an incredible group of veterans in Congress on this legislation.

To our servicemembers and our veterans, I want you to know that you are

not alone and there are people who care and are trained to help you in any mental health crisis you might face.

I encourage everyone to check in on your family and your friends because sometimes the deepest wounds are the ones that we cannot see.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF STATE TROOPER TED BENDA

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tragic loss of one of Iowa's heroes.

Yesterday, October 20, Iowa State Trooper Ted Benda passed away from injuries sustained during a crash while responding to a call for help to detain a wanted suspect in Clayton County.

Over his 16-year public safety career, Trooper Benda served with honor and courage each and every day. Trooper Benda began his public safety career with the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation in 2005. He later moved to the Special Enforcement Operations Bureau, and finally, to the Iowa State Patrol, admirably serving communities in Northeast Iowa.

It is days like this when we are reminded of the sacrifices so many of our law enforcement officers make every day. I am proud to say that I was always ready to support them and do whatever I could in Congress to ensure that they are properly funded, trained, and equipped. Trooper Benda was a hero, not just in his community, but to all of Iowa. His years of dedication and service will never be forgotten.

My thoughts and prayers are with Trooper Benda's wife, Holly, their four young children, all of his loved ones, and the entire Iowa State Patrol family.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COURTNEY) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Lord, our God, bless this day. Give favor to our labor and consecrate our whole selves to Your gracious plan. Be pleased to use us as instruments of Your will.

Use our hands, that they would reach out at the impulse of Your love; our feet that they would be swift and sure to follow Your direction.

Use our voices that we would magnify Your message of mercy and our

words that they would bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness.

Take our wills and our hearts and make them Yours. May we not hold back the spiritual gifts with which You have graced us that You would reveal Yourself through our efforts.

All that we are, all that we aim to do, all that we hope to be, we owe to You. We give You our moments, our days, our very lives, in gratitude and in faithfulness to You. And may we prove worthy of Your faith in us.

In Your gracious name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BROWNLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DICK GRIFFIN

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Dick Griffin, a towering figure in Buffalo's legal community and one of our leading citizens.

Dick worked to make Buffalo a more just place as a champion of the civil rights movement in the courtroom and as a trusted adviser to national and local civil rights leaders.

An attorney for 64 years, he was admired and respected widely for his talent, capability, and legal mind, so much so that later in his career, he was called upon to arbitrate some of the toughest regional legal issues, including that of compensation for the victims of the tragedy of Flight 3407.

He cared deeply about his community and played an active role in civic and philanthropic efforts to improve parks, public spaces, and whole neighborhoods.

We mourn the loss of Dick Griffin today and extend our condolences to his wife and my friend, Dr. Jane Griffin, and their children Mary, Anne, Thomas, and Richard.